

REMARKS

Claims 2-14, 16-28 and 34 are pending. New Claim 34 is hereby added. Claims 29-33, previously withdrawn from consideration, and independent Claims 1 and 15, rejected in the August 1, 2008, Office Action, have been canceled. Applicants reserve the right to continue prosecution of canceled Claims 1, 15 and 29-33 through continuation or divisional applications.

The examiner objected to Claims 2-14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 13, previously dependent directly on canceled independent Claim 1, are hereby amended to place them in independent form including all limitations of canceled Claim 1, and to omit unnecessary reference numerals. Claims 3, 11, 12 and 14, respectively remain dependent on Claims 2, 10, 9 and 14, but have been amended to make spelling corrections and/or omit unnecessary reference numerals. Applicants submit that Claims 2-14 are now in condition for allowance, and their allowance is earnestly solicited.

The examiner objected to Claims 16-25 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22 and 25, previously dependent directly on canceled independent Claim 15, are hereby amended to place them in independent form including all limitations of canceled Claim 15, and to omit unnecessary reference numerals. Claims 21, 23 and 24, respectively remain dependent on Claims 19 and 22, but have been amended to make spelling corrections and/or omit unnecessary reference numerals. Applicants submit that Claims 16-25 are now in condition for allowance, and their allowance is earnestly solicited.

Claims 26-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, but the examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if amended to overcome this rejection. Claim 26 is hereby amended to overcome this rejection, as well as to make spelling corrections and omit unnecessary reference numerals. Claims 27 and 28 remain dependent on Claim 26, and have been amended to make spelling corrections and omit unnecessary reference numerals. Applicants submit that Claims 26-28 are now in condition for allowance, and their allowance is earnestly solicited.

Applicants note that the present application was filed with a number of multiple dependent claims for which no fees under 37 CFR 1.16(j) were paid or charged. Applicants also note that no notice of fee deficiency has been received from the Office in the present application. In addition to the above-discussed amendments, all previously pending multiple dependent claims have now been amended to place them in other than multiple dependent form. Applicants therefore submit that any prior issues surrounding the nonpayment of fees for multiple dependent claims, or whether any such claims failed to comport with 37 CFR 1.75(c), are now moot.

Dependent Claim 21 was previously a multiple dependent claim dependent on Claim 19 or on Claim 20. Claim 21 is hereby amended to depend from only Claim 19. New Claim 34 is otherwise identical to Claim 21, except that it depends from Claim 20. Applicants submit that new Claim 34 is in condition for allowance, and its allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Specification has been amended to make spelling corrections indicated by the examiner, and to otherwise make corrections of obvious errors. The Drawings have similarly been amended to make corrections of obvious errors. These revisions are fully supported by the disclosure of the present application as originally filed, and no new matter is introduced thereby.

Applicants respectfully request entry of all amendments herein requested, submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicit its allowance.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or additional amounts of fees in connection with this document, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2789 in the name of Howard & Howard Attorneys, PLLC.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enc.: Replacement Drawing Sheets (24)
Petition under 37 CFR 1.136
Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement
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